(b) The Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) is one of the components of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), namely revised Revised Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme (RMMA). RMMA is implemented in all States and Union Territories of the country. The main thrust of SUBACS is on the transfer of improved production technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing production of planting materials, efficient use of water, treatment of planting materials. During 2008-09, in all, 19 States implemented SUBACS.

(c) Concessional loans at an interest rate of 4% per annum are given to sugar factories from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernization of plant and machinery, expansion of crushing capacity, utilization of by-products *viz.* baggasse for co-generation of power and molasses for production of ethanol, upgradation of technology and sugarcane development including better irrigation facilities, improved seed variety, ratoon management etc.

(d) A short term scheme has been announced for cane development in the current financial year under which loans of Rs. 1.0 to 2.5 crore will be available to sugar factories depending upon their crushing capacity, for purchase of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides etc. This loan is expected to be passed on to the farmers.

Huge difference between whole-sale and retail prices of food items

†187. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference in whole-sale and retail prices of food items especially those of vegetables and pulses;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the average difference, in general, in the first half of year 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The difference in general, in the first half of year 2009-10 is given in the enclosed Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Statement

Difference in Average All India Retail & Wholesale Prices of Selected Commodities during the first Half of the Year 2009-10 (Rs. Per Kg)

(Rs./per kg.)

Commodity	Range of Difference
Rice	1.70-2.02
Wheat	1.28-1.41
Gram	3.53-4.01
Tur	2.97-4.57
Sugar	1.40-1.74
Groundnut Oil	4.91-6.04
Mustard Oil	4.43-5.29
Vanaspati	3.66-4.25
Potato	1.96-2.64
Onion	2.29-3.18

Source: State Civil Supplies Department

Shortfall in production of kharif crop

188. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to shortage of rain in North India, kharif crop particularly rice production, has fallen in the country;

(b) if so, what are the latest kharif crop estimates and how much decline has been recorded;

(c) whether this decline is going to affect food security in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and how Government is going to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per the 1st Advance Estimates released on 3rd November, 2009, production of kharif rice of 2009-10 is estimated at 69.45 million tons, against the estimated production of 84.58 million tons in 2008-09 (4th advance estimates).

(c) and (d) Stock of rice in the Central Pool as on 01.10.2009 was 149.14 lakh tons against the buffer norm of 52 lakh tons and strategic reserve of 20 lakh tons. In the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2009-10, 111.58 lakh tons of rice has been procured as on 17.11.2009 against 101.11